

Canine Influenza Virus Update June 9, 2010

Canine influenza virus (CIV) was first recognized in racing greyhounds in Florida in January 2004 and has since been documented in 30 states, including New Jersey. This highly contagious virus causes a clinical syndrome in dogs that mimics "kennel cough." There is no evidence that CIV can be transmitted from dogs to humans. Attached is a document with guidance on CIV from the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services (NJDHSS).

During the summer months of the last 5 years the NJDHSS has received reports of CIV outbreaks in kennels, veterinary hospitals, and shelters throughout the State. Veterinarians and operators of licensed animal facilities (kennels, pet shops, shelters and pounds) are asked to be on the alert for this disease and prepared to respond in the event they have an outbreak. If the virus enters a kennel setting, virtually 100 percent of exposed dogs become infected and nearly 80 percent develop clinical signs. Although most dogs will have a milder form of CIV and recover without complications, some may develop severe pneumonia, which can be life-threatening.

Veterinarians who are overseeing disease control at animal facilities should review the ventilation, sanitation and infection control practices with operators of these facilities. In the event of an outbreak, infected animals will need to be isolated for 14 days and treated under the supervision of the supervising veterinarian. Those exposed to the virus would need to be quarantined for 14 days and observed for signs of disease.

Suspected and confirmed CIV cases and outbreaks should be reported to the NJDHSS.

Contact Dr. Faye Sorhage or Dr. Colin Campbell, NJDHSS, IZDP for more information or to report cases via phone (609)-826-4872 or email: faye.sorhage@doh.nj.state.us or colin.campbell@doh.state.nj.us.

Additional information on CIV is available from:

American Veterinary Medical Association

http://www.avma.org/public_health/influenza/canine_bgnd.asp

University of Florida, College of Veterinary Medicine

http://www.vetmed.ufl.edu/college/pr/documents/CanineinfluenzaFAQDogowners_001.pdf

University of California-Davis, Koret Shelter Medicine Program

http://www.sheltermedicine.com/portal/is_canine_influenza_update.shtml